Market Enforcement Branch 3rd Quarter Hot News July 2009

LICENSE REVOCATION

Rey & Rey Produce, Inc.

Rey & Rey Produce, Inc. was served with an Accusation alleging repeated and flagrant violations under the Produce Dealers Act. They failed to file a Notice of Defense and Rey & Rey's license under the Produce Dealers Act was revoked.

PROSECUTION UPDATES

<u>Andiamo Vineyards, Inc. – Studio City, CA</u>

Andiamo was an unlicensed winery located in Studio City. When Newman failed to appear, a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. Newman eventually pled "no contest" to the charge and was ordered to make restitution to a San Luis Obispo wine grape grower in the amount of \$3,500. He was also ordered to pay MEB \$1,500 as reimbursement for its investigative costs.

Christopher Cisneros dba Sun Ripe Produce - Delano, CA

A criminal complaint has been filed against Cisneros with the Kern County District Attorney's Office alleging that while unlicensed under the Produce Dealers Act, he purchased California grown farm product for resale. The amount alleged owed to handlers is in excess of \$32,000. An arrest warrant has been issued. The case is pending.

Guadalupe Pasos, Sr. - Madera, CA

Pasos was an unlicensed processor located in Madera. MEB filed a criminal complaint against Pasos with the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office for operating without a license under the Processors Law. Pasos pled "no contest" to the charge and was sentenced to two years probation, six days confinement in the County Jail or the Sheriff's Work Project. He was also ordered to pay MEB \$1,500 as reimbursement for its investigative costs. The unpaid grower had already received a judgment against Pasos in the amount of \$5.552 in small claims court.

<u>Juan Pablo Ramirez – San Jose, CA</u>

A criminal complaint has been filed against Ramirez with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office alleging that while unlicensed under the Produce Dealers Act, he purchased California grown farm product for resale. The case is pending.

Sans Permis Partners, LLC - Santa Maria, CA

Sans Permis was an unlicensed winery located in Santa Maria. MEB filed a criminal complaint against Sans Permis' managing member, George Mason Vanduzer, with the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office for operating without a license under the Processors Law. Vanduzer was ordered to pay fines of \$10,000 plus court fees; was placed on three years probation; and supervised restitution to two wine grape growers in the Santa Barbara area in excess of \$97,000.

If full restitution is made, the \$10,000 fine will be permanently stayed and probation would be terminated at 18 months.